

1

Date 6/2/64

1

DL 100-10461
RPG/ds

In the May 9, 1964, issue of the "National Guardian", there appears an article captioned "OSWALD CASE: A NEW ANGLE".

According to this article, MARK LANE claims that the United States Secret Service deliberately planted a false story in the press to cast further guilt on OSWALD. This article names a U. S. Secret Service Agent MIKE (MICHAEL) HOWARD; PAT HOWARD, a Deputy Sheriff of Tarrant County, Texas, and a brother of the U. S. Secret Service Agent, MIKE HOWARD; and, THAYER WALDO, a reporter for the "Fort Worth Star Telegram". This article alleges that MIKE HOWARD, PAT HOWARD and THAYER WALDO engaged in conversations on or about February 9, 1964, in Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas, concerning the existence of a Negro witness who saw OSWALD shoot at President KENNEDY.

THAYER WALDO, news reporter, "Fort Worth Star Telegram", dictated the following signed statement to "Star Telegram" stenographer BETTY JOHNSON in the conference room at the "Fort Worth Star Telegram" in the presence of Special Agents B. TOM CARTER and JOSEPH L. SCHOTT. After dictating the statement, WALDO said he intended to read it over after it was typed, make any corrections which he deemed necessary in his own handwriting, maintain one copy for himself and another copy in the files of the "Fort Worth Star Telegram".

Special Agents SCHOTT and CARTER returned to the "Fort Worth Star Telegram" approximately five hours after this statement was dictated and WALDO handed over the original. He said that he had signed his name on each individual page and that all corrections in ink on the statement were made in his own handwriting, and for that reason did not consider it necessary to initial each correction.

The statement is as follows:

"Fort Worth, Texas
May 28, 1964

"I, Thayer Waldo, make the following voluntary statement to B. Tom Carter and Joseph L. Schott, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"On the morning of February 9, 1964, attorney Mark Lane called me from San Francisco and asked if I would accompany Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and a secret service man on the drive from Fort Worth to Dallas Love Field. Lane said Mrs. Oswald was to take a plane to Washington, D. C. to appear before the Warren Commission and wanted 'someone she knew and could trust to make the ride with her.'

172

on 5/28/64 at Fort Worth, Texas File # DL 100-10461
by Special Agent B. TOM CARTER and JOSEPH L. SCHOTT/ds Date dictated 6/2/64

171

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DL 100-10461

"I went to Mrs. Oswald's house shortly after noon. Two men were standing by a car in the driveway and one of them greeted me by name, saying, 'I'm Mike Howard.' The other one introduced himself as Pat Howard.

"We drove to Love Field; Mrs. Oswald and I were in the back seat, Mike Howard driving and Pat Howard by him. At the airport Forrest V. Sorrels, Chief of the Secret Service Office in Dallas and another agent who was to accompany Mrs. Oswald on the flight, met us.

"After Mrs. Oswald's plane took off, Sorrels invited all of us to have a cup of coffee with him. We sat at the counter in the coffee shop; Sorrels and Mike Howard conversed between themselves and I was talking to Pat Howard on my left. (Pat Howard at that time identified himself as a deputy in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, and as a brother of Mike Howard).

"We were discussing various angles of the assassination of President Kennedy, of the subsequent killing of Oswald when Pat put his hand on my knee and said, 'Waldo, if it hasn't already come out of the Warren Commission by then, after this Ruby trial is over I'm going to come up and give you a story that will blow everybody's head off.'

"I tried to get him to give me more details, but he refused. However, when we left the coffee shop-- Sorrels and Mike Howard walking some distance ahead of us--Pat took me by the arm and added:

"I'll tell you just this much right now. It has to do with a witness who saw the shooting of the

DL 100-10461

"President and can positively identify Oswald as the killer. Is that good enough?"

"In the car on the return trip, I sat alone in the back seat. Mike was driving and began talking, a rather long monologue about various aspects of the two killings. Then, very casually, he said:

"Well, when that old black boy gets up before the Warren Commission and tells what he knows, that will stop them all talking."

"Pat turned half around in his seat and gave me an elaborate wink, with raised eyebrows, as if to say, 'so here is what I was telling you about.'

"Then he leaned close to Mike and said something inaudible to me. But Mike appeared to pay no attention and continued telling his story.

"He stated that a Negro employee of the Texas School Book Depository had been on the sixth floor of that building at mid-day on November 22, 1963; that he was looking out the window at the passing presidential motorcade when he heard a shot close beside him; then he looked and saw Oswald kneeling at the next window with a rifle aimed into the street.

"Mike Howard said the Negro later told Dallas Police officers to whom he surrendered, 'I was scared to death, I thought he would kill me too. I just turned and ran way over to the far side of that room and squeezed me down behind some empty crates. While I was running, I heard another shot, maybe two. When Oswald dropped his gun and ran out down the stairway, he almost stepped on me as he went by.'

4

DL 100-10461

"Mike said the unnamed Negro waited a few minutes, then left the building, and went straight to Dallas Police Headquarters, where he turned himself in to Special Services.

"He said he knew about that branch because they handle gambling cases and he had been picked up a few times for shooting craps,' Mike Howard explained.

"Howard said he had seen this Negro witness once, while the latter was still in the Dallas City Jail.

"They slapped a vagrancy charge on him so they could hold him,' Mike said. 'He was still just about the scariest Negro I ever saw--nothing but whites to his eyes.

"They have now transferred him somewhere else, I understand. I don't know where.'

"During this recital, Pat Howard kept giving me significant grins and broad winks. Nothing was said at anytime by either of them about not repeating this story, that it was off the record or in anyway confidential. There was no request to omit use of names.

"Mike and Pat dropped me off at the Star-Telegram. This was not a normal working day for me, but I felt that the editors should know at once about what I had been told.

"The city editor naturally saw it as a sensationally good story. He called the managing editor and a decision was made to make it a copy-right story in the first edition for Monday. It was then about 5:45 P.M.

175

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2579--Continued

5

DL 100-10461

"I wrote the story at once and it appeared under an eight column, double bank banner in the one star edition, which hit the streets shortly after 8 P.M. Within minutes the story was being broadcast on radio and TV.

"At about 8:25, I received a call from Pat Howard, who said:

"Hey, boy, that's quite a story! You aren't using anybody's name on it, are you?'

"I assured him I was not; and he said, 'Good stuff.'

Less than ten minutes later, Mike Howard called me. He seemed considerably upset and agitated, but conceded that no request to withhold the story had been made.

"Well, for God's sake at least don't use my name,' he said.

"I told him I had not and would not.

"Except for the Star-Telegram's editors and the local Associated Press correspondent, I did not mention Mike Howard's name to anyone--including the F.B.I., to whom I talked by telephone on Tuesday, February 11--until about one month ago.

"At that time, Mark Lane called me from Dallas, said he was on his way to give a talk at the University of Texas in Austin and asked if I could see him in Dallas.

"I explained that I was too busy to leave the newspaper, so he took a rent car and came to Fort Worth to see me.

176

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2579--Continued

1

Date 6/2/64

6

DL 100-10461

"He said he was conducting an investigation on 'four or five important angles' of the Kennedy-Oswald-Ruby case and was particularly interested to know further details about my February 9th story.

"His manner of speaking gave me to understand that anything I told or showed him would be held in confidence. I took him to the reference room, where he read the Star-Telegram for the morning of February 10th. Then he asked if I would mind telling him my source. Believing this to be a lawyer's request with normal legal discretion, I told him the complete story.

"I heard nothing more from Mr. Lane. About two weeks later Mrs. Marguerite Oswald called and asked me if I could come to her home, 'as I have several important things to show you.'

"One of the items she showed me was a copy of the National Guardian for May 9th, 1964. In a front page article, Mark Lane was quoted, revealing all the details I had given him on the story.

"As regards identity of the Negro referred to by Mike Howard, Howard said he didn't know the name, 'or if I did, I've forgotten it now.'

"I dictated the above statement containing 7 pages to Star-Telegram stenographer, Betty Johnson, and it is true and correct.

"/s/ Thayer Waldo
"Thayer Waldo

"/s/ Joseph L. Schott, Special Agent, FBI, Dallas, Texas, 5/28/64.

"/s/ B. Tom Carter, Special Agent, F.B.I., Dallas, Texas, 5/28/64."

177

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2579—Continued

PAT CLYDE HOWARD, Patrolman, Hurst Police Department, advised he would make the following free and voluntary oral statement to Special Agents B. TOM CARTER and JOSEPH L. SCHOTT of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

HOWARD stated he presently resides at 508 Norwood, Hurst, Texas. He said he had come to work at the Hurst Police Department during the first part of May 1964 and for approximately one year prior to that had been employed as a Deputy Sheriff at the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Fort Worth, Texas.

HOWARD stated that his brother, MIKE HOWARD, had been employed for the past two or three years as a Special Agent of the U. S. Secret Service.

HOWARD said that about three or four months ago, probably during the month of February 1964, his brother, MIKE, called him on the telephone and asked him to go along when MIKE drove Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD from her residence in Fort Worth, Texas, to Love Field in Dallas, at which place she was to take an airplane to Washington, D. C., and testify before the President's Commission. PAT HOWARD said he accompanied his brother in MIKE's car to the residence of Mrs. MARGUERITE OSWALD and, while waiting for her to finish packing, she informed them that a friend of her attorney, MARK LANE, was going to accompany them on the ride from Fort Worth to Love Field in Dallas. Mrs. OSWALD identified this individual who was to accompany them as THAYER WALDO, a reporter for the "Fort Worth Star Telegram".

PAT HOWARD said that THAYER WALDO arrived at Mrs. OSWALD's residence by taxi, to the best of his recollection. He accompanied them to Dallas. During the ride, MIKE HOWARD drove the car, PAT HOWARD sat in the front seat with his brother, and WALDO and Mrs. OSWALD sat in the back seat.

178

on 6/1/64 at Hurst, Texas File # DL 100-10461
by Special Agent B. TOM CARTER and
JOSEPH L. SCHOTT/ds Date dictated 6/2/64

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2579—Continued

DL 100-10461

At Love Field in Dallas they met FORREST SORRELS, the Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service in Dallas, and also another Secret Service Agent, whose name was not recalled by PAT HOWARD at this time. This Agent who accompanied SORRELS got on the plane for Washington with Mrs. OSWALD to accompany her on the trip.

After the plane departed, SORRELS, MIKE HOWARD, PAT HOWARD and THAYER WALDO went into the coffee shop at Love Field Terminal to have a cup of coffee. In the coffee shop, the four seated themselves in such a way that FORREST SORRELS and MIKE HOWARD could engage in a private conversation out of earshot of the other two, and PAT HOWARD and WALDO could converse privately. PAT HOWARD said this situation arose because of the way they were seated at either the counter or a long table.

In conversation with WALDO, PAT HOWARD said he had some interesting highlights on the events immediately following the Presidential assassination that he might tell WALDO sometime.

PAT HOWARD said what he had in mind when he made the statement was that he had accompanied Sheriff LON EVANS of Fort Worth and several Secret Service Agents to Dallas on November 22, 1963, after the news of the Presidential assassination was broadcast. They arrived at Parkland Hospital just about the time the news of the President's death was announced. When the news was announced, PAT HOWARD observed the reactions of many of the individuals in the hall and outside the hospital and referred to these reactions as "interesting human drama". He said that he thought these little incidents of human drama would make good newspaper stories, and these incidents were what he referred to when he told WALDO he would sometime like to give him some interesting sidelights on the events immediately after the assassination.

On the return trip to Fort Worth from Love Field, Dallas, MIKE HOWARD drove and PAT HOWARD sat in the front seat

DL 100-10461

with him. THAYER WALDO sat in the back. On the return trip, MIKE HOWARD mentioned that there had been a Negro male in the Texas School Book Depository at the time the assassination had occurred. After the shooting, the Negro left the building hastily because he was afraid he might be implicated in some way as he had several minor arrests against him for gambling or vagrancy. PAT HOWARD said MIKE HOWARD told this as an amusing incident and never at any time did he indicate that this Negro male had actually been a witness to anyone shooting at the President.

PAT HOWARD recalled that MIKE HOWARD's source of information about the Negro male was a detective on the Dallas Police Department, whose name was not recalled by PAT HOWARD. PAT HOWARD said it was his recollection that this Negro male had been identified shortly after the assassination and had been checked out by the Dallas Police Department and the Secret Service.

PAT HOWARD said that the next morning after the story came out in the "Fort Worth Star Telegram" that a Negro witness had observed LEE HARVEY OSWALD shooting the President, he called THAYER WALDO at the "Star Telegram" and protested, but had not received any sort of satisfactory answer from WALDO regarding his reasons for having written the story.

At the conclusion of the interview, PAT HOWARD reiterated that neither he nor his brother, MIKE, had told WALDO that the Negro male MIKE talked about had been a witness who had observed LEE HARVEY OSWALD shoot at the President in the Texas School Book Depository at Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963.